

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 EC BRU 02338 081941Z

64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-02 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 SAJ-01 /097 W

----- 046354

R 081725Z MAR 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 695

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1793

AMCONGEN MILAN

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 02338

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC,IT

SUBJECT: EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI'S "OFF THE RECORD"

INTERVIEW ON ITALY,PCI AND EC

1. THE MARCH 1 CORRIERE DELLA SERA REPORTED A " CONVERSATION" BETWEEN EC PRESIDENT ORTOLI AND CORRIERES BRUSSELS CORRESPONDENT ARTURO GUATELLI UNDER HEADLINES "LET'S IMAGINE AN ITALY A LITTLE MORE RED". FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF SALIENT EXCERPTS OF WHAT REPORTER DESCRIBED AS "CANDID INTERPRETATION OF ORTOLI'S THINKING" AT LUNCHEON MEETING:

2 BEGIN TRANSLATION: TO A FRENCHMAN,LIKE ORTOLI,THE PARALLEL BETWEEN THE ITALY OF THE SEVENTIES AND THE END OF THE FOURTH REPUBLIC COMES SPONTANEOUSLY. BUT WHO WILL SAVE ITALY FROM ANARCHY AND FROM CHAOS? ON THE HORIZON OF THE PENINSULA THERE IS NO GENERAL DE GAULLE IN SIGHT.

AND MORE, THE ITALIANS,ON WHOM THE DARK HERITAGE OF FACISM WEIGHTS PSYCHOLOGICALLY,WOULD BE FEARFUL.THE "PROTEST" OF JUNE 15? INsofar AS THAT IS CONCERNED,THE CONVERSION OF THE ITALIAN ELECTORATE TO MARXIST DIALECTIC IS NOT CERTAIN. IT IS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 EC BRU 02338 081941Z

WEARINESS,A DESIRE FOR ORDER,FOR TIDINESS. BUT IT IS NOT DETERMINED

THAT THE PURIFICATION END WITH THE ENTRY OF THEPCI IN THE CITADEL OF POWER.

3. THE COMING OF THE COMMUNISTS INTO THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH FREE ELECTIONS IS A DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION WHICH CONTAINS MANY RISKS, ESPECIALLY ON THE INTERNATIONAL PLANE NO ONE,IN GOOD FAITH,IS ABLE TODAY TO MAKE PREDICTIONS. IT IS A PROCESS OF MEDIUM OR LONG TERM THAT WILL BE A PART OF THE LIFE OF EUROPE FOR THE NEXT FIVE OR TEN YEARS.

4. THOSE WHO TRULY BELIEVE IN THE INTRINSIC VALUE OF DEMOCRACY ARE NOT ABLE TO GAIN SAY THE INVOLABLE RIGHT OF PEOPLE TO SELF-DETERMINATION. ANALYZING THE "ITALIAN CASE," BOTH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA OUGHT TO START ALWAYS FROM THAT PREMISE. MOREOVER,IF THERE WILL BE A CHANGE IN ITALY, - AND FOR NOW EVERYTHING IS IN THE BALANCE- IT WILL BE NECESSARY THAT (EXTERNAL) INFLUENCES,DIRECT OF IN-DIRECT,NOT RENDER IT TRAUMATIC TODAY THEPCI,WITH ALL RESPECT FOR ITS IDEOLOGICAL REVISIONISM AND OF ITS INDEPENDENCE FROM MOSCOW,IS A UNIQUE HALF WAY POINT BETWEEN SOCIAL DEMOCRACY AND MARXISM-LENINISM IF THE HISTORIC DOGMA OF THE COMMUNIST REVOLUTION- THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT AS WELL AS DEMOCRATIC CENTRALISM- IS DROPPED,PROBLEMS WILL TEND TO ABATE. BUT THE VERIFICATION OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS,EVEN IF IT YIELDS POSITIVE RESULTS,WILL TAKE MUCH TIME AND THE POLITICAL EVOLUTION OF EUROPE WILL SUFFER. FREQUENTLY THE PAUSES FOR REFLECTION ARE THE DANGER SIGNALS.

5. HOW COULD LIFE IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY BE IMAGINED WITH THE COMMUNISTS IN POWER IN ITALY? EVERYTHING WILL BE MORE DIFFICULT,SPECIFICALLY FOR THE ITALIANS. THERE WILL BE TIMIDITY,DOUBTS,PERPLEXITY,SUSPICION. COMMUNITY MACHINERY WILL SEEM TO WORK LIKE BEFORE,BUT THE DECISIONS WILL EVEN BE MORE TIMID,THE ECONOMIC EFFORTS OF THE RICH COUNTRIES WILL BE EVEN MORE LIMITED.ABOVE ALL THE GERMANS,WHO LIVE IN THE ANGUISH OF HAVING COMMUNISM ON THEIR FRONTIER AND WHO ARE THE CHAMPIONS OF FREE TRADE,WILL FEEL ILL AT EASE. AND THIS DOES NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, WHICH GERMANY RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY CONSIDERS AS THE REAL POINT OF REFERENCE OF ITS

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 EC BRU 02338 081941Z

FOREIGN POLICY. EVEN RELATIONS BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES,WHICH ARE STILL IN THEMSELVES COMPLICATED,WILL UNDERGO A CHANGE. BILATERAL RELATIONS (BETWEEN THE US AND THE MEMBER STATES) WILL INCREASE TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE COHESION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY....

6. ORTOLI DEEPLY LOVES ITALY... AND HE DEMONSTRATED IT RECENTLY WHEN HE BURIED TINDEMANS FOR THE IMPROPRIETY OF HAVING LAUNCHED

THE IDEA OF THE "TWO-SPEED EUROPE". FOR ORTOLI, ITALY IS NOT A
SECOND-RATE COUNTRY. AND IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IT HAS AN
IRREPLACEABLE ROLE; THAT OF THE HINGE BETWEEN THE
BLOC OF STRONG COUNTRIES AND THAT OF THE WEAK COUNTRIES.
ITALIAN FOREIGN POLICY SHOULD HAVE DEVELOPED IN THAT SENSE,
WITHOUT FOOLISH AMBITIONS AND WITHOUT EXCESSIVE TIMIDITY.
END TRANSLATION.
HINTON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, POLITICAL SITUATION, POLITICAL PARTIES, RELATIONS WITH REGIONAL ORGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ECBRU02338
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760087-1018
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760385/aaaacxcb.tel
Line Count: 123
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2004 by fisherem>; APPROVED <14 DEC 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI'S "OFF THE RECORD" INTERVIEW ON ITALY, PCI AND EC
TAGS: PFOR, IT, EEC, (ORTOLI, FRANCOIS-XAVIER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006